WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for assessing susceptibility of systemic lupus erythematosus in

2   an individual to be tested comprising comparing

3   (a)   a test polymorphic pattern comprising at least one polymorphic position

4   within an FcγRIIB promoter gene of the individual, with

5   (b)   a reference polymorphic pattern derived from a population of individuals

6   having systemic lupus erythematosus; and

7   concluding whether the individual is susceptible to development of systemic

8   lupus erythematosus.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the reference polymorphic pattern

2   comprises at least one polymorphism.

1   3.   The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises a C

2   residue at position -385.

1   4.   The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -385

2   C/C.

1   5.   The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises an A

2   residue at position -119.

1   6.   The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -119

2   T/A.

1   7.   The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -119

2   A/A.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the reference polymorphic pattern
2   comprises at least two polymorphisms.

1   9.   The method of claim 8 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -
2   385C/C and -119 T/A.

1   10.   An isolated nucleic acid derived from the gene encoding human
2   FcγRIIB, wherein the nucleic acid comprises polymorphic position -385 in the promoter
3   region.

1   11.   A nucleic acid as defined in claim 10 wherein the sequence at the
2   polymorphic position in the promoter region is -385C.

1   12.   An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a
2   nucleic acid as defined in claim 11.

1   13.   An isolated nucleic acid derived from the gene encoding human
2   FcγRIIB, wherein the nucleic acid comprises polymorphic position -119 in the promoter
3   region.

1   14.   A nucleic acid as defined in claim 13 wherein the sequence at the
2   polymorphic position in the promoter region is -119A.

1   15.   An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a
2   nucleic acid as defined in claim 14.

1   16.   An isolated nucleic acid derived from the gene encoding human
2   FcγRIIB, wherein the nucleic acid comprises polymorphic positions -385 and -119 in the
3   promoter region.

1   17.   A nucleic acid as defined in claim 16 wherein the sequences at the

2 polymorphic position in the promoter region are -385C and -119A.

1   18.   An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a

2 nucleic acid as defined in claim 17.

1   19.   A kit for assessing the susceptibility of an individual to developing

2 systemic layers erythematosus comprising sequence determination primers and sequence

3 determination reagents wherein said primers hybridize to the polymorphic positions in the

4 human FcγRIIB gene, wherein the polymorphic positions are -385 and -119 in the promoter

5 region.

1   20.   A kit for assessing the susceptibility of an individual to developing

2 systemic layers erythematosus comprising sequence determination primers and sequence

3 determination reagents wherein said primers hybridize to a polymorphic position in the human

4 FcγRIIB gene, wherein the polymorphic positions is -385 in the promoter region.

1   21.   A kit for assessing the susceptibility of an individual to developing

2 systemic layers erythematosus comprising sequence determination primers and sequence

3 determination reagents wherein said primers hybridize to a polymorphic position in the human

4 FcγRIIB gene, wherein the polymorphic position is -119 in the promoter region.